United Nations A/CONF.192/PC/L.1

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
2 March 2000

Original: English

Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects
First session
28 February-3 March 2000

Draft report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

00-32409 (E) 020300

I. Introduction

1. At its fifty-fourth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 54/54 V of 15 December 1999, the operative part of which reads as follows:

"*The General Assembly,*

"...

"1. *Decides* to convene the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects in June/July 2001;

"2. *Also decides* that the scope of the Conference shall be the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects;

"3. *Further decides* to establish a preparatory committee open to participation by all States, which will hold no fewer than three sessions, with its first session to be held in New York from 28 February to 3 March 2000;

"4. *Decides* that the specialized agencies, other relevant intergovernmental organizations and relevant entities, having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and in the work of the General Assembly, shall participate, as observers, in the Preparatory Committee, and requests the Committee to take a decision on the modalities of attendance of non-governmental organizations at its sessions;

"5. *Requests* the Preparatory Committee to decide, at its first session, on the date and venue of the Conference in 2001 as well as on the dates and venue of its subsequent sessions;

"6. *Stresses* the need to ensure the widest possible and effective participation in the Conference in 2001;

"7. *Requests* the Preparatory Committee to make recommendations to the Conference on all relevant matters, including the objective, a draft agenda, draft rules of procedure and draft final documents, which will include a programme of action, and to decide on background documents to be made available in advance;

"8. *Invites* all Member States, in particular those that have not yet done so, in response to the note verbale of the Secretary-General dated 20 January 1999, to communicate to the Secretary-General their views on the agenda and other relevant questions relating to the Conference;

"9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the replies of Member States relevant to paragraph 8 above to the Preparatory Committee and to render the Preparatory Committee and the Conference all necessary assistance, including the provision of essential background information, relevant documents and summary records;

"10. *Endorses* the report of the Secretary-General on small arms, prepared with the assistance of the Group of Governmental Experts on Small Arms pursuant to General Assembly resolution 52/38 J, bearing in mind the views of Member States on the report;

"11. *Calls upon* all Member States to implement the relevant recommendations contained in section IV of that report to the extent possible and where necessary in cooperation with appropriate international and regional organizations and/or through international and regional cooperation;

"12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on the report as well as on the implementation of the relevant recommendations contained therein;

"13. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to implement the relevant recommendations contained in section IV of the report within available financial resources and with any other assistance provided by the States in a position to do so and in cooperation with appropriate international and regional organizations where necessary;

"14. *Further requests* the Secretary-General, in order to assist in preventing the illicit trafficking in and illicit circulation of small arms and light weapons:

"(a) To carry out a study, within available financial resources and with any other assistance provided by member States in a position to do so, and with the assistance of governmental experts appointed by him, on the basis of equitable geographical representation, while seeking the

views of Member States, on the feasibility of restricting the manufacture and trade of such weapons to the manufacturers and dealers authorized by States, which will cover the brokering activities, particularly illicit activities, relating to small arms and light weapons, including transportation agents and financial transactions;

"(b) To submit the study as one of the background documents for the Conference to be held in 2001;

"15. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled 'Small arms'."

2. The following States were represented at the first session of the Preparatory Committee: Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, and Yemen. [This list is current as of 1 March.]

3. The following intergovernmental organizations and entities participated as observers in the first session of the Preparatory Committee: Caribbean Community, European Commission, Organization of the Islamic Conference, Organization of African Unity, International Committee of the Red Cross, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and United Nations Children's Fund. [This list is current as of 28 February.]

II. Organization of the work of the Preparatory Committee

4. Pursuant to paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 54/54 V, the Preparatory Committee held its first session at United Nations Headquarters from 28 February to 3 March 2000. During the session, the Preparatory Committee held a total of 10 plenary meetings and five private meetings.

5. The Preparatory Committee elected the following officers:

Chairman

Mr. Carlos dos Santos (Mozambique)

Vice-Chairmen

Mr. Yashar Aliyev (Azerbaijan)

Mr. Mitsuro Donowaki (Japan)

Mr. Shen Guofang (China)

Mr. Valeri P. Kuchynski (Ukraine)

Mr. Filipe de Macedo Soares (Brazil)

Mr. Juan Miguel Miranda (Peru)

Mr. Hamid Baeidi Nejab (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Mr. Richard Pierce (Jamaica)

Mr. Alyaksandr Sychov (Belarus)

Ms. Nury Vargas (Costa Rica)

Mr. Makmur Widodo (Indonesia)

Mr. Przemyslaw Wyganowski (Poland)

Rapporteur

6. Ms. Agnès Marcaillou, Senior Political Affairs Officer, Department of Disarmament Affairs, served as Secretary of the Preparatory Committee.

7. At its 1st meeting, on 28 February 2000, the Preparatory Committee adopted its agenda as contained in document A/CONF.192/PC/1.

8. In its consideration of paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 54/54 V, concerning the request to the Preparatory Committee to decide, at its first session, on the date and the venue of the Conference in 2001 as well as on the dates and venue of its subsequent sessions, the Preparatory Committee had before it a non-paper prepared by the Secretariat containing a list of dates tentatively reserved in different venues.

9. In pursuance of paragraph 8 of the same resolution, inviting Member States to communicate their views on the agenda and other relevant questions relating to the Conference, the Secretary-General transmitted a note verbale dated 31 January 2000 to all Member States. The replies of three Member States, Argentina, Canada and Thailand, contained in document A/54/260/Add.1 were circulated during the first session of the Preparatory Committee.

10. The Preparatory Committee also had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General (A/54/260 and Add.1);

(b) Letter dated 7 February 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the documents of the second Oslo Meeting on Small Arms, held at Oslo on 6 and 7 December 1999 (A/54/739);

(c) Letter dated 24 February 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the International Code of Conduct on Arms Transfers (A/54/766-S/2000/146);

(d) Letter dated 23 February 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations addressed to the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, containing the text of decision AHG/DEC.137 (LXX) on the illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons, adopted by the summit meeting of the Organization of African Unity, held at Algiers from 12 to 14 July 1999 (A/CONF.192/PC/2);

(e) Note verbale dated 25 February 2000 from the Permanent Mission of Portugal to the United Nations, transmitting the text of the European Union Programme for Preventing and Combating Illicit Trafficking in Conventional Arms and the European Union Code of Conduct (A/CONF.192/PC/3);

(f) List of delegations participating in the first session of the Preparatory Committee (A/CONF.192/PC/4).

11. In pursuance of a decision of the General Assembly of 15 December 1999 that summary records be provided for only those meetings at which decisions would be taken, summary records were provided for ... meetings.

III. Decisions of the Preparatory Committee

12. At its ... meeting, on ..., the Preparatory Committee took the following decisions:

A. Modalities of attendance of non-governmental organizations at sessions of the Preparatory Committee

13. At the request of the General Assembly, as contained in paragraph 4 of its resolution 54/54 V, the Preparatory Committee decided ...

B. Dates and venues of the Conference in 2001 as well as of the subsequent sessions of the Preparatory Committee

14. At the request of the General Assembly, as contained in paragraph 5 of its resolution 54/54 V, the Preparatory Committee took the following decisions:

(a) Date and venue of the Conference in 2001

The Preparatory Committee decided to convene the Conference from ... to ... 2001;

(b) Dates and venues of subsequent sessions of the Preparatory Committee

The Preparatory Committee decided to hold its second session from ... to ... It also decided to hold its third session from ... to ... 2001;

C. Decision on background documents to be made available in advanace

At the request of the General Assembly, as contained in paragraph 7 of its resolution 54/54 V, the Preparatory Committee decided ... to request the Secretariat to provide ... document(s) on ... [issues] as background documents to be made available in advance for the Conference.

IV. Recommendations of the Preparatory Committee

15. At its ... meeting, on ..., the Preparatory Committee decided to submit to the Conference the following recommendations:

Recommendations on all relevant matters, including the objective, a draft agenda, draft rules of procedure and draft final documents

In its consideration of paragraph 7 of resolution 54/54 V, requesting the Preparatory Committee to make recommendations to the Conference on all relevant matters, including the objective, a draft agenda, draft rules of procedure and draft final documents, including a programme of action, and to decide on background documents to be made available in advance, the Preparatory Committee ...